

# Superior Court Judge

## Niesje J. Steinkruger, Fourth Judicial District



**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 25, 1951  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Lincoln, Nebraska  
**NAME OF SPOUSE:** Roger Brunner  
**CHILDREN:** Laura, Jill  
**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 28 years  
Fairbanks 1976-present

**EDUCATION:**  
University of Nebraska: Bachelor of Science in  
Secondary Education, Juris Doctorate Degree.

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**  
Superior Court Judge 1988-present; Assistant Public  
Defender 1984-1987; Assistant Attorney General  
1979-1984.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
Attorney, Guess & Rudd 1987-1988; Attorney, Rice &  
Hoppner 1976-1979; Alaska Bar Association Board of  
Governors; Family Law Rules Committee, Family Law  
Self Help Center Committee; Alaska Court Outreach  
Committee; Presiding Judge of Fourth Judicial District.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:**  
Alaska Bar Association; Tanana Valley Bar Association.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**  
Walking, reading, bike riding, needlepoint.

**OTHER:**  
I enjoy meeting with community groups and school kids  
to explain how the Alaska courts work and what services  
are available.

### STATEMENT:

I have been honored to serve as a judge for almost sixteen years and I strive to perform my duties as a Superior Court Judge in a fair and impartial manner. I am committed to hearing cases in a timely manner while also encouraging settlement and early resolution, when appropriate, to save time and money for the citizens involved.

In all cases, I gather facts by reading and listening carefully, asking questions and considering the arguments and reasoning presented to me. I recognize that the cases entrusted to me are very important to the people involved and to our communities.

I try hard to manage my responsibilities so that each matter is given careful research and fair consideration. I will continue to work hard to serve the people of Alaska in a fair and honest manner.

*provided and paid for by the candidate*

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Niesje J. Steinkruger, Superior Court, Fairbanks

**I. Judicial Council Evaluation.** The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Steinkruger to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously that the public vote “YES” to retain her as a superior court judge.

**II. Summary of Evaluation Information.** A survey of 2,927 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Steinkruger on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Steinkruger 4.1 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 4.0 or better in all sixteen categories.

|                | Attorney Survey | Peace Officer Survey | Juror Survey | Court Employee Survey |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Legal          | 4.1             | ---                  | ---          | ---                   |
| Impartiality   | 4.1             | 3.8                  | 4.8          | 4.7                   |
| Integrity      | 4.2             | 4.0                  | ---          | 4.8                   |
| Temperament    | 4.1             | 4.1                  | 4.9          | 4.7                   |
| Diligence      | 4.2             | 4.0                  | ---          | 4.7                   |
| Special Skills | 4.2             | 4.0                  | ---          | ---                   |
| Overall        | 4.1             | 4.0                  | 4.9          | 4.8                   |

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is “acceptable.”

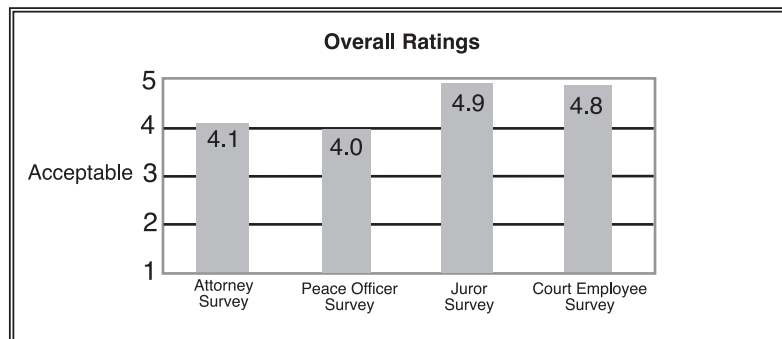
#### Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent  
4.0 = Good  
3.0 = Acceptable  
2.0 = Deficient  
1.0 = Poor

A survey of 1,495 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Steinkruger on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Steinkruger 4.0 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 3.8 or better in all twelve categories.

A survey of jurors appearing before Judge Steinkruger in 2002 and 2003 rated her 4.9 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her 4.8 on a scale of 5 on overall performance.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



**Recommendation: Vote “YES” to retain Judge Niesje J. Steinkruger**

*Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:*  
[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

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